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Early COVID-19 Treatment for People with High-Risk Health Conditions

If you have been diagnosed or tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days, there is a medicine available that can help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. The treatment must be given as soon as possible BEFORE people are sick enough to need to go to the hospital. It is usually covered by insurance or may be free depending on the clinic.

Many people in our community are at high risk to get very sick from COVID-19 and this treatment is recommended for them. It is approved for ages 12 years and older, even if you have already been vaccinated. People who may benefit from this medicine (monoclonal antibody treatment) because they may be higher risk to get very sick with COVID-19:

- People who are overweight or obese
- People with diabetes or high blood pressure
- People who are pregnant
- People with lung problems, heart problems, or kidney problems
- People with weakened immune systems
- People who are over age 65
- People who have not gotten the COVID-19 vaccine
- People with other chronic health problems (ask your doctor)

This medicine can also be given right away to prevent infection if you were just exposed (in close contact) to COVID-19: this is only recommended for people with severe immune system problems or for high-risk people who have not gotten the COVID-19 vaccine.

Monoclonal antibody treatment is currently available at:

Visalia:

- Via self-referral or provider referral to Kaweah Health Mon-Sat 8am-5pm (call 559-624-2161)
- Via self-referral or provider referral to Dr. Baz Allergy Clinic (call 559-436-4500)

Porterville:

- Via provider referral to Sierra View Hospital

Tulare:

Via self-referral to Tulare Adventist ER (walk-in)

Dinuha:

Via self-referral to Mountain View Health Clinic in Dinuba (call 559-591-6200)

Monoclonal antibody treatments are currently the only recommended treatment for non-hospitalized patients with COVID-19: Preliminary data has shown that this medicine was 78% effective at halting illness progression and preventing the need for hospitalization. It was shown to be effective for the Delta COVID-19 variant (the most common COVID-19 strain in our community currently); its effectiveness is not yet known for the new Omicron variant. It is given by injection or IV. Talk with your doctor if you are unsure if you may benefit from this treatment.

Information about this FDA emergency-authorized medicine (Regeneron) is online: https://www.fda.gov/media/145612/download